

connectivity for countless businesses. Residents are now organizing to expand this network for fiber-to-the-home offerings.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1631 and urge the House to pass this legislation swiftly.

HONORING MEDFORD LEAS ON THEIR FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ANDY KIM

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 2021

Mr. KIM of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Medford Leas on their fiftieth anniversary. Medford Leas is a continuing retirement community with the mission of creating and advancing individual and community well-being for people aged 55 years and older.

For the past five decades, Medford Leas has provided valued high quality residential and healthcare services to older adults. From the conversations I have had with Medford Leas residents, I know Medford Leas lives up to its mission.

On Medford Leas fiftieth anniversary, I extend my best wishes to staff and residents of the Medford Leas community.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF MS. BONNIE BRUESHOFF

HON. ANGIE CRAIG

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 2021

Ms. CRAIG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Ms. Bonnie Brueshoff, Director for the Dakota County Public Health Department located in West St. Paul, Minnesota, who is retiring after 27 years of service and dedication to the public health efforts of Minnesota.

Throughout her career, Ms. Brueshoff exhibited a commitment to bettering our community by chairing numerous health official boards, such as the National Association of County and City Health Officials. Time and time again, she contributed her expertise on both a state and national level to molding the next generation of public health practitioners. With her leadership, in 2019, the Dakota County Public Health Department was nationally recognized for its innovative initiatives to promote health awareness in our state.

As we continue to persevere through these unprecedented times, we must never forget to recognize our heroes at the forefront of the fight against COVID-19. Ms. Brueshoff, alongside so many others, exemplifies the true meaning of public service in the realm of civic wellness. Her career is a testament to the character of our district and our determination to assist those in need.

I rise on behalf of the 2nd Congressional district of Minnesota, expressing my deepest gratitude to her commitment to the health of our community. She created a legacy I know many hope to emulate. I congratulate Ms. Brueshoff for her many years of leadership and wish her the best as she embarks on her well-deserved retirement.

HONORING HOWELL HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR SURVIVORS

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 2021

Ms. SLOTKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 16 graduating seniors from Howell High School who recently participated as contestants in the 14th annual "Senior Survivor" fundraiser.

I'm thrilled to honor Gage Altrick, Felicia Berendt, Nicole Caudy, Jackson Dukes, Lucas Gonzalez, Olivia Gray, Alyssa Johnson, David Johnston, Julia Jolly, Ryan Lane, Danny Maura, Zach Metz, Taylor Newstead, Alaina Schrock, and Molly Tucker—as well as the winner of this year's Senior Survivor: Morgan Pasini.

For a full week, these students lived at Howell High, collecting money and competing against each other in reward and immunity challenges that included scavenger hunts, trivia challenges, and cake-baking contests. This year's Senior Survivors were put to the test—not just to prove who could outwit, outlast, and outplay their fellow competitors—but also by the extraordinary circumstances they each have faced in adapting to a school year affected by COVID-19.

Each Senior Survivor was supported by a Junior Survivor from the 5th grade classes at Howell's elementary schools. These Junior Survivors led a coin drive in their schools to benefit their respective seniors.

Together, Howell students raised a whopping \$220,427—which will go towards building an inclusive playground for children of all abilities at Genoa Township Park.

This playground, which will be named the Senior Survivor Playground, will let kids play together in a natural environment in order to develop physical, imagination, and problem-solving skills through self-directed play. Together with its nationally-recognized Unified Sports program, it's just one more example of the Howell community's steadfast commitment to including students with disabilities and special needs.

None of it could have been possible without the 16 seniors who came together to raise money for a noble cause. Over the years, Senior Survivors have raised more than \$760,000 for various charities. It is why I have the great privilege of recognizing them on the floor of the People's House—so that their selfless service to others may be forever known.

HONORING ASCENSION MATA, SR.

HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 2021

Mr. VELA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to extend my sincerest congratulations to Mr. Ascension Mata, Sr., who celebrates his 100th birthday on Wednesday, May 12, 2021.

Ascension Mata, Sr. was born in 1921, in San Benito, Texas, the eighth child of the late Manuel and Isidora Mata. Ascension's parents instilled in him the values of religious devotion, honesty, resilience, and hard work at a young age, and his resilience pushed him to travel

four miles every day to attend Sebastian Elementary School. While the pursuit of knowledge has always been a priority for Ascension and his family, he was only able to receive a second-grade education. Although his academic time was cut short, his hardworking mindset propelled him forward as he spent his childhood on the farm and in the fields with his father to help provide for his family.

In 1937, when Ascension was just sixteen years old, his father passed away, leaving his mother a widow and sole provider for him and his seven siblings. Ascension continued to work to ensure his family persevered.

Ascension married the love of his life, Eloise De La Rosa, in 1942. They were faithfully married for 53 years until Eloise's passing in 2003. Over the years, they were blessed with six children: Ascension Mata Jr., Vincente Mata, Guadalupe Mata, Celia Mata Delgado, Roberto Mata, and Janie Linda Mata Cantu; seven grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren. As doting parents, Ascension and Eloise created a nurturing environment built on a solid faith in their love for God that would become the moral foundation for their children, grandchildren, and a host of other family members throughout their lives.

In addition to being a committed family man, Ascension is also a proud Veteran who served his country during World War II. After he was drafted, he was assigned to an Army base in Salt Lake City, Utah where he spent one month in basic training. He was then assigned to an Army base in Lincoln, Nebraska, where he received an additional eight months of training. After completion of his training Ascension was sent to New York, where he was preparing to sail overseas to join the Armed Forces in Germany. However, on November 9, 1943, Ascension was honorably discharged from the United States Army because he did not meet the Army's education requirement, which at the time was a sixth-grade education level. After he was discharged, Ascension returned to his home in Sebastian, TX where he worked various jobs including managing a field crew, working at Alberti's Seafood Packing shed in Harlingen, Texas for about 12 years, and at La Feria Water Irrigation District for many years until his retirement. During that time, he purchased 20 acres of land near Santa Rosa, TX, that he and his family used to cultivate cotton and sorghum crops.

Today, Ascension lives near Sebastian, where he continues to uphold the same values of resilience, faith, honesty, and hard work that have allowed him to live a long and fulfilling life with his family.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Ascension Mata, Sr., on 100 years of life, service, and dedication to his community and country, and wish him continued happiness surrounded by loved ones.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF WILLIAM HENRY LAWSON

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 2021

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and service of William

Henry Lawson of Glasgow, Kentucky. William passed away at the age of 97 on April 7, 2021.

William served our country in the United States Army during World War II. His military occupational specialty was Truck Driver, Light (345). William was awarded the European-African-Middle Eastern Ribbon with three bronze service stars and bronze arrowhead, the American Theater Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal, and World War II Victory Medal as a testament to his valiant and honorable service in defense of our nation.

In addition to serving in the Army, William also was a farmer and school bus driver. Most importantly, he had a loving family. William is survived by children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, step-grandchildren, and many other loving family members.

I would like to thank William for his service to our country and community.

**RECOGNIZING DIANNE GREFF FOR
HER LIFETIME OF SERVICE AS A
PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHER AND
NORTH JERSEY COUNCIL PRESIDENT
OF THE NAVY LEAGUE OF
THE UNITED STATES**

HON. MIKIE SHERRILL

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 2021

Ms. SHERRILL. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Dianne Greff, public school teacher and North Jersey Council President of the Navy League of the United States, for her lifetime of service to her students, her community, and to New Jersey.

Dianne's commitment to service began when she was 18 years old, when she enrolled at William Paterson University in Wayne, New Jersey, to study education and fulfill her dream of being a public school teacher. Upon her graduation in 1959, Dianne set off on her 40-year career as an educator, helping to shape the lives of thousands of New Jersey students. She was awarded the New Jersey Governor's Teacher of the Year Award before retiring in the early 2000s.

Dianne's impact on Passaic County extended beyond education. As President of the North Jersey Council of the United States Navy League, she worked to support America's Navy service members. The Navy League aids military families while spouses or parents are deployed, honors enlisted personnel, and adopts ships and shore commands. While Dianne was president of the New Jersey chapter, there were over 300 active members.

Later in life, Dianne committed herself to helping our seniors. She was elected the President of the Saint Mary's Active Senior Ministry in Pompton Lakes, New Jersey. She also served on the Board of Trustees for the Golden Age Circle of Wayne, and advised the Mayor as a member of his Wayne Township Senior Citizen Advisory Committee.

There was never a moment in Dianne's life when she wasn't trying her hardest to help other people. Whether for students, service members, veterans, seniors, or immigrants, Dianne went the extra mile to help them achieve their dreams or have a good life.

Dianne passed away on January 29, 2021. Her legacy will live on in all of the lives she

touched in Passaic County and across New Jersey. The world is a kinder, better place because of Dianne Greff.

**HONORING CAPTAIN BREANNA L.
KNUTSON**

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 2021

Mr. PALAZZO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the outstanding service of Captain Breanna Knutson.

CAPT Breanna Knutson currently serves as the House of Representatives Liaison Officer for the Coast Guard. She ensures the Coast Guard's prompt response to the House's 435 members and staffs by coordinating and conducting policy briefs, preparing senior Coast Guard leaders for Congressional hearings and engagements, and planning and leading Congressional delegations to Coast Guard units throughout the country.

She previously served as The Chief Pilot and Operations Officer of Coast Guard Air Station Detroit where she directed the operations of 5 MH-65 Dolphin helicopters, 26 pilots and 35 air crew members in the conduct of Search and Rescue missions on the Great Lakes from the St. Lawrence Seaway to eastern Lake Michigan.

CAPT Knutson's first operational assignment was as a deck watch officer aboard USCGC MOHAWK in Key West, Florida. Following this assignment, CAPT Knutson was selected for Naval Flight Training in Pensacola, Florida and began flight school the summer of 2001. She earned her wings in the fall of 2002.

In 2007 she earned a dual qualification in the Rotary Wing Air Intercept mission and deployed to the National Capitol Region ten times supporting National Security missions. In 2010 CAPT Knutson was assigned to the Coast Guard's Helicopter Interdiction Tactical Squadron in Jacksonville, Florida where she conducted Airborne Use of Force—Counter Drug missions, deploying aboard four Coast Guard cutters in the Eastern Pacific Ocean and Western Caribbean Sea.

In 2014 CAPT Knutson was selected as the Executive Assistant to the Director of Department of Homeland Security, Joint Task Force—East, the first ever Joint Task Force of its kind. In this capacity she supported the Director and Executive Leadership in executing the foundational processes of standing up a new unit tasked with improving the Department of Homeland Security's ability to operate as a unified team.

CAPT Knutson graduated from the United States Coast Guard Academy in 1999 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Management. She holds a Master of Arts degree in Human Resources Management from American Military University.

CAPT Breanna Knutson is a true American who chose to answer the call to serve our country. It is an honor to recognize her incredible service history that is a true depiction of her dedication to the United States Coast Guard. I wish her the best as she continues her service as Commanding Officer of Sector North Bend, Oregon.

IN HONOR OF KEN WHITE

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 2021

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker I rise today to recognize Ken White, the recently retired Executive Director of the Peninsula Humane Society. As Mr. White noted, he was retiring on his 469th birthday, as measured in dog years. He joined the Peninsula Humane Society in 2002 and his successes at this organization have been historic for this beloved organization.

Upon his arrival, Ken White and the Peninsula Humane Society guaranteed a home to every adoptable dog or cat in their care, a promise they have kept ever since. In 2003 the organization expanded its promise to include as many ill and injured and behaviorally challenged pets as possible. In 2005, the Humane Society purchased a mobile veterinary clinic and provided spay/neutering surgeries for animals in some of the most underserved communities in the county.

More than 22,000 households contribute to the work of the Peninsula Humane Society. The euthanasia rate has decreased 98 percent since 1970. 1200 volunteers allow PHS to function as an integral part of our community.

In 2006, Ken and his board bought an old Burlingame warehouse. Through a major gift and the loving care of volunteers, they were able to open this facility as the Center for Compassion to house charitably funded programs through state-of-the-art facilities. The progress is amazing. When Ken arrived in our community, the percentage of animals released live back into the community was 53 percent. Today, it is 89 percent. There are tens of thousands of peninsula animals who found their forever-home thanks to the kind heart and amazing fundraising talents of Ken White.

Not content to be an over-achieving humane organization, Ken, his board, employees and volunteers have set a reach goal. The organization now owns 260 acres of land in San Mateo County which will be turned into an animal sanctuary. It will be the first in our nation owned and operated by a humane society.

Ken has seen a tortoise survive being driven over by a vehicle, and today that tortoise thrives as Ken's pet. He watched a falcon be released into the wild after severe injuries were healed. Reptiles have been visitors to his home. He and his apparently patient wife, Carolyn Crane, have also taken in a pot-bellied pig and an Argentinian homed frog. If there was a wild party at Ken's home and the noise ever got to be too much, I'm sure there was always a pet or two that was more than willing to lay down the law to Ken.

Ken White got into the business of running animal shelters from an unusual background. He holds a Master's Degree in creative writing. After a series of jobs, he was eventually invited to create educational materials for a local shelter. As a child he was never allowed to own a pet, but then as a young man he was suddenly surrounded by animals. It was love at first sight.

As he leaves his longtime position, he goes out on a national high note. The 260 acre sanctuary in the San Mateo County mountains